

Plant a Tree



Shade Tree Commission *of Scranton*

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City Forester

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More and Better Shade Trees for Scranton

"Show me your town or city and I will tell you the kind and quality of your citizens," is a rule of universal application that is invariably correct. The morale of a people is in exact keeping with the outward and manifest appearance of the municipal home. Few things contribute more to the cultivation of local pride and civic patriotism than beautiful trees in the parks and the streets.—Extract from "Shade Trees in Towns and Cities" by William Solotaroff.

Trees help purify the air by absorbing the carbonic-acid gas that is exhaled by man and giving back the pure oxygen that he needs. They make cool the highways by cutting off the direct rays of the sun in the summertime and by the evaporation of large quantities of water from the foliage.

But one must be careful in the selection of trees for highway purposes. There are but few species of trees that do well under the severe conditions of the average city. The tree must contend with poor soil, disease, telephone and electric wires, narrow curbing, insufficient water, etc. For resistance to the above conditions the following species are recommended:

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| 1. Norway Maple | (Acer platanoides) |
| 2. Pin Oaks | (Quercus palustris) |
| 3. European Lindens | (Tilia europaea) |
| 4. Oriental Plane | (Platanus orientalis) |
| 5. Red Maple | (Acer rubra) |
| 6. White Ash | (Fraxinus americana) |
| 7. American Elm | (Ulmus americana) |
| 8. Ginkgo | (Ginkgo biloba) |
| 9. Hackberry | (Celtis occidentalis) |
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PLANTING HINTS

1. Prepare a pit for the tree in advance.
2. Make this pit 4 feet wide, 4 feet long and at least 2 feet deep. (These dimensions for trees of 2 inches or less in diameter.)
3. Replace old soil with fresh top-soil.
4. Get nursery grown trees of the best quality and from reliable concerns.
5. Cut off smoothly every broken root; preserve the fibrous roots.
6. Before setting the tree, prune the top in order to offset loss of roots.
7. The tree should be set so that it stands 2 inches deeper than it did in the nursery. (This allows for settling of the dirt.)
8. Do not force the roots into place but make certain that the pit is large enough before actual planting.
9. Fill the pit half full of water, shovel the best dirt in and make a mud of it.
10. Set the tree in the pit with someone holding it erect and at the proper height, and then pack in and around the roots more rich dirt. Leave no air spaces.
11. When the pit is filled to within a few inches of the top, tamp the dirt down with your feet and pump the tree up and down with your hands. The latter helps in spreading the roots.
12. Apply the last few inches of dirt without packing. A wire-guard for protection and a stake support are valuable aids in the first few years of the life of the tree.
13. Apply a garden hose at least once a week for about 20 minutes at each application of water.
14. *Above all*—Successful planting depends upon the care of planter.

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ARBOR DAY.

With Arbor day comes the thought of trees, shrubs and flowers. Spring is in the air and every man and woman and child gets the planting itch. It was because of this disease of "planting itch" that our forefathers set aside one day in spring as an official day for the cure of this itch. It was then observed with due respect, and trees were planted along the highways and private property.

At present, however, this time-honored custom is losing its prestige and being cast into the discard. No longer do we get out our clothes and tools in preparation for that day. In fact, we usually forget that there is an Arbor day until we are reminded of it by a clipping in a newspaper and then usually too late.

Let us make the whole month of April an Arbor month and plant trees until it hurts. We know that the city shade tree commission is willing to help us plant and also direct our attention to places that should be planted. Let's plant those trees ourselves and thus get the delightful feel of rich warm dirt slipping through our fingers. For once we'll forget the habit of calling the nurseryman by phone and directing him to do the planting and then naturally forgetting all about it until the bill is received. Let our motto for the rest of this month be: "Plant until it hurts and every man and woman to do their own individual planting."

RUSSIA WANTS MONEY.

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